

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

February 22 & 23, 2025

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 165 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's Bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a room just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 8:45 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

Scan to Give Online



Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



Today at Kountze Memorial

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of David Penning

Children's Choir

9:15 AM

K-6th Grades

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen or join Kristin Boe for a Children's Sermon. Children will return to their seats in time to receive communion. Thank you to our Children's Choir this morning for sharing their musical talents with us.

Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-4

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper rooms. The children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Sunday School

10:10 - 10:50 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs while listening to the lessons of the day (the same breakfast that is being served in the Fellowship Hall). If you would like to support the Sunday School with donations of juice boxes or individual milk cartons, we would appreciate it and will be serving those with breakfast.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Youth Forum Youth Center 10:10 AM Grades 7—12

You are invited to join us each week in the Youth Center during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.
2/23 Mardi Gras!

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

This week: Preview of Lent

Next week: During the month of March, we'll start a study of the Council of Nicaea, its content, and the upcoming 1,700th anniversary. Join us.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

February 23 Sunday

Epiphany 7
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

February 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
9:00 AM Assemble Good News
12:30 PM Circle 3
4:30 PM HGFC Open House

February 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00—8 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

February 27 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

March 1 Saturday

Homebound Communion
Scholarship Application Deadline
5:00 PM Worship

March 2 Sunday

Homebound Communion
Transfiguration of Our Lord
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Good News “Collating Party”

Tuesday, February 25

9:00 AM

As we gear up for another edition of the Good News, we're reaching out to you for a little extra support in the collating department. And, we serve lunch! So, if you're up for a bit of teamwork and a whole lot of fun, join us in this delightful adventure of collating camaraderie. If you're able to lend a hand in this behind-the-scenes task, please call the church office to let us know so we can plan for lunch. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our church community in such a meaningful way.

Del and Lou Ann Weber

Healing Gift Free Clinic

15th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, February 25

Reception: 4:30— 6:30 PM

Born from a mission at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, where it initially operated within Sunday school classrooms, the HGFC has evolved into an independent 501 (c)(3) nonprofit now housed at the Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. This all-volunteer clinic, complete with a licensed pharmacy, provides free medical care to underserved individuals, emphasizing well-being for the body, mind, and spirit. HGFC's dedicated team of

volunteer healthcare professionals offers a wide array of medical services for both acute and chronic conditions. All services, including prescribed medications, are provided at no cost. The clinic relies entirely on the generous contributions of time and expertise from its staff and medical volunteers. HGFC invites the Kountze community to join in celebrating this milestone and consider supporting their continued mission of providing vital healthcare to those in need.

Scholarships

Deadline to Apply: March 1

The KMLC Scholarship Program makes scholarship funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up in the Youth Center, Church Office, or downloaded from the church website at:

www.kmlchurch.org and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships.

Applications are due on March 1, 2025. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.

Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

directly to respective institutions. Submit your applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail, in person to the church office, or by e-mail to info@kmlchurch.org

Table Grace 2025 Gala

Friday, March 7

6-9 PM

Livestock Exchange Ballroom

4920 South 30th Street, Omaha

We are invited to a wonderful evening of food, entertainment, and giving. The Gala will not only help raise money for those who are hungry but also help give them a hand up in life - providing meals with dignity and an opportunity to start a new life with training and job experience. The Gala will feature stories of impact that will be shared around the tables by people who have experienced transformative life changes through Table Grace first-hand. Starting at 6 PM with a Cocktail hour and Silent Auction. Followed by heavy hors d'oeuvres and program at 7 PM and finishing with a live auction at 8 PM. More information about *The Making of Table Grace*, the Musical Documentary will be revealed at the event! tickets & info are available at:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/bd7fb5ee-eba5-4998-9b9c-53f852e5555b>

KMLC Camp Week

Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 15-20

Join your Kountze friends at Camp Carol Joy Holling. Spend the week making new friends, spending time in nature, and growing in faith through song, lessons, and testimonies. If you didn't register by the Early Bird registration date, you will need to pay the additional cost and Kountze Memorial will cover the rest of the registration for any Kountze Memorial child/youth. Kountze Camp Week is June 15—20, but you can attend camp whenever it is convenient for you. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K–12 as well as day camps and leadership training for high school-age youth and Special Needs camps. In order for the church to pay the fee, choose:

- to mail your payment,
- select "Pay items in Full"
- then "Pay by Check/Money Order"
- email a copy of the receipt to info@kmlchurch.org and we will submit the Early Bird payment on behalf of your youth.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office. To register, use the link below and follow the directions above:

<http://NLOM.org/caroljoyholling/register>

Youth Mission Trip

Kountze Memorial will join other high school youth and leaders from around the Nebraska Synod this summer on mission in Nashville. The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth who have completed grades 8-12 by the summer of 2025 and their adult leaders. The 2025 Journey to Nashville will feature service learning throughout the Nashville area, worship, fellowship and other activities throughout the city. We will use our gifts as we grow in our faith together and learn about the gifts our neighbors in Tennessee bring to the table.

- Date: July 6-12, 2025
- Location: Nashville, TN
- Cost of event: \$680/person
- We will fundraise to offset the cost to families
- Contact Pr. Lucy or Kristin Boe if you are interested!

Our youth are kicking-off the fundraising for this trip with an Envelope Tree. Just like last year, we ask you to support our youth by taking an envelope and putting a donation inside matching the number on the envelope before returning it. Checks/envelopes should be made out to Kountze Memorial and clearly marked "Youth Mission Trip" in the memo line. Many, many thanks!

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Pantry is still collecting gloves for men, women, and children. Men's large and extra-large gloves are especially in short supply. Also, we will accept and distribute new or like-new coats to our Pantry guests if they request them. You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry", located in Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are located on the box. As always, we are in need of volunteers. We have jobs for most ages and abilities. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up at the link below.

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, February 13—Wednesday, February 19

Saturday: 21

Sunday: 9:00: 132 **11:00:** 62

Wednesday: 12:15: (Snow Day)

Total: 194

Streaming: 59

Pantry Guests Served: 183 (inc. 61 children) (Friday Only)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$28,932.49 (Regular) \$1,867.53 (Specials)

\$257.00 (Debt Reduction)

Showing love and mercy is a lifelong journey.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies
Monday	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Joseph reveals himself
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	The resurrection body
Wednesday	Genesis 43:16-34	Joseph is merciful and kind
Thursday	Psalms 25:6-10	A prayer for guidance
Friday	1 John 2:7-17	A new commandment
Saturday	Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40	Trust the Lord
Sunday	Luke 9:28-43a	Jesus is transfigured



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In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:36-37 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, help us to follow the way of Jesus and do to others as we would want others to do to us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food give us strength to overcome anger and anxiety with love and mercy, through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God show you mercy and forgiveness.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- If someone stole from you, what do you think should happen to them?
- What is difficult about showing mercy to those who hurt you? What are the benefits of showing kindness?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 6:27-38.

Even Jesus understands that his words to “love your enemies; do good to those who hate you” (v.27) sound challenging and are very hard to do. People don’t want to hear about kindness to those who don’t deserve it. No one wants to be abused or walked on. How do we experience the blessings of showing mercy, forgiveness, and love for our enemies? We are not going to learn it from a desire for power and dominance. Power can too easily lead to abuse of power. There are too many wars, bullies at school, and violence on the streets and in the news. It will take a lifetime for the disciples of Jesus to learn the importance—even power—of mercy from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. That is why Jesus’ sermon in this reading is a call to a lifetime of work. We will have to listen and try to believe it and yet fail many times along the way.

Discuss: When have you seen mercy and forgiveness work for good?

Pray: Almighty God, be our comfort and strength as we learn what it means to show mercy, forgiveness, and love for enemies. In Christ Jesus we pray, amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show forgiveness to someone who hurt you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40 encourages us to trust the Lord when we are mistreated. Feeling mistreated by others can make us feel hurt and our relationship with them changes. Write a list of people who you have hurt or have hurt you in the past. Say the Lord’s Prayer. Pause for a moment of silence after “forgive us our trespasses [sins or debts] as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Then read the names you have written before finishing the prayer.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2; Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]